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and the parking space inside is very poor. These objections were pointed out to the applicant even before the theatre was constructed, and yet he persisted in building it.

"(b) No licence has been granted so far and no cinema shows are being exhibited in the theatre at the present time."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Does the Hon. Minister know that this building belongs to minors and was constructed in 1938 with the sanction of the Corporation? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I believe that the information of the hon. Member is correct, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Does the Hon. Minister know that the building was under requisition for the past seven years for Government purposes and was given back to the owners only on 3rd January 1948?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" How is this question relevant to the main question? "

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" There is another question, Sir, which will be relevant. Will the Hon. Minister kindly give his personal attention to the application for the licence? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There can be no question of personal attention being given to any matter, Sir. If any matter comes to me, I shall certainly apply my mind to it, but I do not see how personal attention can be given to it. I cannot visit each and every cinema or theatre on every application received from them, and if I do so, I shall be spending all my time, without having to attend to other matters."

Derationing.

* 20 Q.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether he has received representations from the townsmen in the deficit districts that rationing be discontinued in their towns and whether the Government have arrived at a decision in this matter?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Representations were received from the districts of North Arcot, Trichinopoly, Madura and Vizagapatam for the abolition of statutory rationing in these districts. Rationing has been abolished from 1st February 1948 in Walajapet and Tiruvannamalai towns in North Arcot district and from 8th February 1948 in Srirangam Municipality in Trichinopoly district. The question of abolishing rationing in the other municipalities of these districts is under the consideration of the Government. In the Ceded Districts of Cuddapah, Anantapur Kurnool and Bellary and also in Chittoor rationing of millets has already been abolished. Rationing of rice has been abolished from 29th February 1948 in Cuddapah district

and in Chittoor and its suburban area in the Chittoor district. The question of abolishing statutory rationing of rice in the Anantapur, Kurnool and Bellary districts also is under the consideration of the Government. Rationing in the towns of Periyakulam, Bodinayakanur and Palni in the Madura district has been abolished with effect from 22nd February 1948. The Government are also considering the question of abolishing rationing in the municipal towns of South Kanara district and in Villupuram and Cuddalore towns in South Arcot district. As regards the other deficit districts, statutory rationing will be abolished as soon as conditions permit."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, if the Government are aware that as far as Ceded Districts are concerned, they are deficit districts?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Yes, Sir."

SRI C. VEERABHADRA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government received the resolution passed by the Vizagapatam Food Committee to abolish rationing in the district and particularly in the municipality?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Yes, Sir. I have already said that the matter is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"May I know, Sir, when is rationing going to be abolished in the Trichinopoly Municipality?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Representations have been received from the Trichinopoly Municipality and they are being considered by the Government, Sir."

Machkund Project.

* 21 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what amount the Government have spent so far on the Machkund Project;

(*b*) what is the progress of the work; and

(*c*) when is the project expected to be completed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"(*a*) Rs. 8,21,935 to end of November 1947.

"(*b*) *Land acquisition.*—Land acquisition is in progress, both the Governments of Madras and Orissa having their survey parties working at site.

Roads—(i) *Lambadaput-Machkund road.*—Designs for permanent bridges and culverts have been approved for some streams and sent to field for execution. Designs for the remaining ones are being finalized in the technical office of the Electricity Department. Work on the road is proceeding in the various reaches and are in different stages of progress.